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**GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA**  
**MINISTRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER & CABINET**

**Press Release**

**08 September 2010**

The Prime Minister Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi has informed the Cabinet that yesterday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010, the United Nations General Assembly plenary in New York unanimously adopted a resolution, to extend by a period of three years until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, the transition period before graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status of Samoa becomes effective.

The graduation of Samoa from LDC status was previously decided by the UN General Assembly in 2007 to become effective on 16<sup>th</sup> December this year, 2010.

However the Global recession triggered by the financial crisis and the devastating and tragic tsunami that struck last year could not be anticipated when the United Nations made its 2007 decision.

These events, one beyond Samoa's control and the other that could not be foreseen, sadly demonstrated the kind of vulnerabilities that Samoa faces and underlined the request of the Government, through Samoa's mission to the United Nations, to seek an extension of the adjustment period before Samoa graduates from LDC status.

The decision of the United Nations General Assembly to grant the three year extension until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, enables Samoa to continue to access special treatment and arrangements provided to least developed countries which further assist Samoa's efforts to respond to the impacts of the Global economic crisis and the tsunami devastation.

Samoa is very grateful for the understanding shown by its key development partners and to the United Nations membership, for the decision of the UN General Assembly to extend the adjustment period for Samoa.

## **Cabinet Secretariat**